



THE PIQUANIAN

May 2025

Kelly Meckstroth (President), Marijo Poling (V.P.), Gretchen Roeth (Secretary), Mark Wion (Treasurer)

Kelly Meckstroth (Immediate Past President), Mark Wion (President Elect)

Board Members: Mark Greenwood, Mikaili Hall, Brent McKinney, Warren Parker, Shane Schneider, Joe Shaffer

Address: P.O. Box 738, Piqua, OH 45356

website: www.piquakiwanis.org

President's Message

"May is a month of rebirth, of renewed vitality and energy." - Lailah Gifty Akita

As many of you know, May is the bridge from Spring to Summer. Often it feels like we skip Spring as Mother Nature creates chaos daily. Aside from sunshine, warmer temps and greenery to many landscapes, May is the start of several service projects and volunteer work for our Kiwanians.

All of our sponsored youth programs come to an end mid-month. Taste of the Arts is quickly approaching which means our Bike Rodeo will be getting underway. Also the Salvation Army Feeding Program is gearing up for another season. Mark Wion and Mark Greenwood have consistently volunteered at the Johnston Farm and Bethany Center providing an outlet for service - thank you!

We are one member shy of our target as we continue to court potential members. Take a moment and identify if you happen to have a friend, neighbor or family member who would consider joining Kiwanis as it is a great way to give back.

More information will come but there will be a slight bump in member dues this year as Kiwanis International pushed through an increase last year. Until recently, we have absorbed increased costs, but it is time to push some down to the members. With that said, we are NOT pushing the full increase through to our members as the club will be offsetting a good portion of the increase. All of this will be explained in detail on page 4 of next month's newsletter.

Lastly, thank you for all you do each and every day. Although you may not be able to make a meeting, I am confident you are living our purpose and serving our mission. And speaking of missions, check out page 4 for an interesting take on one aspect of our mission!

Warm Regards,

Kelly



House Cleaning

Birthdays

Tony Lyons (5/4), Steve Wells (5/9), Ben Zimmerman (5/20)

Anniversaries

Brian Sowers (5/4), Tony Lyons (5/6)

Wednesday Programs

- May 7 Miami County Animal Shelter
Rob Craft, Executive Director, will talk about the animal shelter.
- May 21 Health Partners Free Clinic
Deb Miller, Executive Director, will talk about the Free Clinic.
Board Meeting immediately follows.
- May 28 Eagle Wings Therapeutic Riding Center
Jaclyn Moorman, Administrative Assistant, will talk about Eagle Wings.
- June 4 Piqua Education Foundation
Danielle Blevins, Education Foundation Manager, will present.
- June 18 Piqua Fire Department
Lee Adams, Piqua Fire Chief, will present at an off-site meeting to be held in the Training Room at the Fire Station.
Board Meeting follows back at the YWCA.
- June 25 Upper Valley Career Center (UVCC)
Jason Haak, UVCC Superintendent, will talk about what's going on at UVCC.

Wednesday meetings are held from noon to 1pm at the Piqua YWCA, 418 N. Wayne St., unless stated otherwise.

Currently, we do not meet on the second Wednesday of the month.

In the event of a program change, emails will be sent out with updated information.

For a lunch reservation notify Kelly Meckstroth by Monday.

Call/text (419) 348-4329 or email KMeckstroth@trio-healthcare.com.

DID YOU KNOW...current and back issues of the newsletter and up-to-the-minute meeting info can be found on our website at www.piquakiwanis.org.

Newsletters are published at the first of the month. Please email news items to mark1greenwood@gmail.com.

Items must be received at least one week prior to the end of the month.

The Back Burner



Just a few things on the back burner that are worth noting:

Head Start Reading - **Third Tuesday of each month at 9:45 am**

If you would like to volunteer or get more information about the program, contact Mark Wion.

Salvation Army Summer Feeding Program - **June, July and August. See info below:**

Salvation Army Facility at 129 S Wayne St.

Arrive at 10:15 am. Program ends at approximately 1:30 pm.

Available dates:

Tuesday, June 24 (2 volunteers needed)

Tuesday, July 1 (3 volunteers needed)

Tuesday, July 22 (3 volunteers needed)

Tuesday, August 19 (2 volunteers needed)

Contact Mark Wion to volunteer.

IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE!

Before coming to Piqua, I worked and retired at a California State University. But, prior to that, I spent over 15 years at General Dynamics working with the Standard Missile program. Standard Missile has been around since the 60's and is still going strong.

The basic missile is roughly 15 feet long and can fly over 100 miles. These defensive missiles are purchased by the U.S. Navy to protect their ships. When a ship is threatened, these missiles are launched and use onboard radar (among other things) to zero in on the oncoming threat. A radar unit is housed inside the white nose cone, or "radome" pictured right.



Standard Missile on launch platform

Now make your best guess. Are radomes made of aluminum, carbon fiber, fiberglass, glass, a special plastic, or titanium?

Here's a little hint. Radar signals bounce off of metal. That eliminates aluminum and titanium. Still stumped?

Here's a big hint. Radomes are produced by Corning, Inc. If you guessed "glass" you are correct! You can checkout <https://glasscollection.cmog.org/objects/36223> for more info.



Radome

The radome allows the missile to look beyond itself and fulfill its mission. Okay, very interesting, but what on earth is all of this doing in a Kiwanis newsletter? I'll get to that. But as you know from past newsletters just about anything can be related to Kiwanis and our club. So here goes.

If you read last month's newsletter, specifically the KIWANIS 101 article that replaced the President's report, you learned that Kiwanis began as a fraternal organization. In other words, a networking group where members looked inward and not outside the basic organization. If you continued to read that article, you learned that Kiwanis changed their outlook to "service organization" four years after they were started. Now, they were looking beyond themselves to fulfill a mission. In 2005 that mission became "Serving the children of the world".

Like Standard Missile, we look beyond ourselves to fulfill our mission, only our mission is to better our community and the lives of our children rather than blow up an incoming missile intent on destroying a ship.

If you are a sailor aboard a U.S. Naval ship, the latter is pretty important, but I prefer our mission!

Mark Greenwood

Washington K-Kids Bring Fun & Games to Brookdale Residents

Washington Primary School K-Kids made a visit to Brookdale Assisted Living Center in April. The students visited with residents, played games, colored spring pictures, and handed out hand made cards.

So much joy and even some happy tears were shared. K-Kids and residents are both looking forward to a future visit!

Below is a collage of K-Kids interacting with Brookdale residents.



Washington K-Kids are Buzzing

In keeping with the Kiwanis Governor's Pollinator Project, Washington K-Kids learned all about bee keeping. Travis Moorman, of Moorman Bee Farm, presented a lot of interesting and fun facts about bees and their hives. Travis made a real hit by sharing honey sticks made from the honey of his bees!

It was a great presentation. Everyone learned a lot and no one got stung!



Above, Beekeeper Travis Moorman educates and entertains K-Kids

Aktion Club in Action!

The Aktion Club, which we co-sponsored with Troy Kiwanis, held their April meeting at Lost Creek Reserve in Heritage Hall. There were over 30 members in attendance!

Scott Myers, director of the Miami County Parks, was the guest speaker.



A Kiwanis Aktion Club is the only service club for adults with disabilities.
There are currently more than 6,430 Aktion Club members worldwide!

Bethany Center Shelving Project

Last month, Mark Wion arrived at Bethany Center bright and early to rebuild their old, sagging, wooden storage shelves. Mark was assisted by three Bethany Center helpers.

The project took over four hours and, judging from the picture below, was well worth the effort.





Officer Lutz has been with the Piqua Police Department for 9 years. Paco, the other half of the K-9 team, joined Lutz in September of 2024.

During our meeting we learned a lot about Paco's training and how he benefits our police department.

We also found out that Paco is a "team player" in that he is sometimes called upon to assist other area agencies.

Is it my imagination, or does Paco bear a slight resemblance to Scoobie-Doo?



Scoobie-Doo

Below, Paco shows off his training at Lutz's command. Not sure who was having more fun, Paco or Officer Lutz.





Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

(see bottom of page for answers)

1. What has a heart that doesn't beat?
2. What is not alive but can grow and doesn't have lungs, but needs air?
3. What is the beginning of eternity and the end of space and time?
4. What has thirteen hearts but no other organs?
- 5 another one thing

answers: 1) an artichoke 2) a fire 3) the letter "e" 4) a deck of cards 5) one thing after another